

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



***The Benedictional of St. Aethelwold** (980 AD), based on the Rule of St. Benedict, a set of teaching about monastic virtues of humility, silence, obedience and directives for daily living.*

**August 24, 2025**

# **St Giles Presbyterian Church**

## **Greeting and Welcome**

Leading in worship is our minister the Rev. Paul Wu. We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors. Let us together know the joy and wonder of worshipping God. There are sermon texts available. Please speak with an usher, if you have any questions. The church is fully accessible with an elevator, ramps and an accessible washroom.

## **A Note on Our Worship**

The symbol \*\* means please stand if you are able

## **Forward in Faith — Our Vision**

St Giles Presbyterian Church seeks to be a welcoming, fully-alive faith community, which shares Christ's vision for the world and responds in a Christ-like manner to the present-day challenges of our society and world in partnership with all who seek to make Christ's vision for the world a present reality.

Church Office, 181 First Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2G3

613-235-2551 office@stgilesottawa.org www.stgilesottawa.org

Minister: The Rev. Paul Wu 613-276-2551 paulwu55@yahoo.ca

Church Administrator: Rosemary Bann

Office hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Music Director: Heather Rice 613-563-1409 gowans978@gmail.com

Vocalist: Katie Gratton

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People. The Algonquin peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.

Prelude: *God's House*

Reginald Martin

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: With all our hearts, let us praise God.

**All: With all that we are, we will praise God's holy name!**

One: With all our hearts, let us bless God.

**All: We will never forget how kind God has been.**

One: The Lord forgives our iniquity, heals our diseases, redeems our life from the Pit, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within us, bless God's holy name.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Praise, my soul, the God who crowns you **467**

Prayer of Adoration

O God, our strength and refuge, we come together to worship you and praise your lovingkindness. In your presence, we rest from what distracts us, to focus on your truth and goodness. You call us to live in relationship with you. Through the love of Jesus Christ, you repair our lives. Through the power of

your Spirit, you engage us to serve you in the world.  
Receive our prayers and our praise this day.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, revive our hope and our  
energy and make us ready to answer your call.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**O God, our judge and our hope, we confess we often turn away from your truth, and ignore your call to do justice. Forgive us when we say one thing in worship but do another in the ways we live. Forgive us when we ignore how others are treated and think only of ourselves. Let your judgement awaken us and your mercy refresh us.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen**

### Assurance of Pardon

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Believe the good news of the Gospel. In Christ, God has offered us mercy and love. Receive God's forgiveness this day and share it with each other in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b–14

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations  
of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests or  
pursuing your own affairs;

then you shall take delight in the Lord,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights  
of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of  
your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Psalms 103:1–8 (*with refrain 2*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me,  
bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and do not forget all God's benefits—**

who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

The Lord works justice  
and vindicates all the oppressed.

God's ways were made known to Moses,  
God's acts to the people of Israel.

**The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18–29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken

may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Bless the Lord, My Soul

By Robert Batastini and the Community of Taizé

Refrain:

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

Sermon Unshakable Faith

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn:** Will you anchor hold

**744**

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

<b>Doxology:</b>	<b>830</b>
<b>Praise God from whom all blessings flow;</b>	
<b>Praise him, all creatures here below;</b>	
<b>Praise him above, ye heavenly host;</b>	
<b>Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.</b>	

Prayer of Dedication

<b>**Hymn:</b> Lord, whose love	<b>722</b>
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Benediction

Postlude <i>Fanfare Postlude</i>	Gilbert M. Martin
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## **St Giles Events**

**Wednesday, August 20 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Session Meeting** in person.

**Friday, September 05 ~ 12:00 p.m.**

**Bible Study** will resume

**Sunday August 31 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Holy Communion**

**Sunday September 07 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School** will resume

### **Thank You**

During the summer, two children from St. Giles attended the Trailblazer camp of Gracefield (and they had a blast). We wish to acknowledge and give thanks to those who provided fundings, including the Mission Committee and the Worship & Witness Committee of the Presbytery of Ottawa, Gracefield itself, and the congregations of St. Andrew's Church in Kars and the Osgoode Church in Vernon. We pray that your generosity will be infectious and spread, so many more children would be blessed with the experience of Christian camping.

### **Helpers Wanted**

St. Giles has been asked to send a total of 18 care packages to soldiers of the Cameron Highlander Regiment who are currently posted oversea. We are looking for additional volunteers who are able and willing to prepare backed goodies (for the end of August and October). For more information, please contact Kate Ferguson ([tartanterriers@sympatico.ca](mailto:tartanterriers@sympatico.ca)).

## **North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW).**

The festival will take place in Ottawa, August 27-31, 2025. This year it is Ottawa's turn to enjoy this wonderful celebration of Welsh music and culture. Events on offer throughout are:

- Welshfest street party on Sparks on Thursday, August 28, a free event featuring musicians from Wales,
- and a concert on Saturday evening by the Penrhyn Male Voice Choir with soloist Meinir Wyn Roberts (ticket required)

**\*St Giles is invited to participate** in two amazing participatory hymn singing sessions, known in Welsh as a "Gymanfa Ganu", in which favourite hymns are sung by the congregation in four-part harmony. These sessions will take place at **Christ Church Cathedral,**  
**414 Sparks St on Sunday afternoon, August 31, 2- 3.30 p.m. and 4.30-6 p.m.** (free will offering).

Please contact me if you need more information or you can visit our website at <http://www.festivalofwales.org>.

## **Youth Leadership Summit Announcement:**

All youth pastors, workers and volunteers are invited to an evening of dinner, learning, prayer and encouragement hosted by the Presbytery Ministry Animator. This event will take place on Friday September 7th at 7pm at St Paul's (971 Woodroffe Avenue) in Ottawa. Please email [prezminimator@gmail.com](mailto:prezminimator@gmail.com) or RSVP with the Animator using the following link.

<https://forms.gle/HHxhKjLtyJxpDMUq5>

## Mission Moment

For the past four decades, the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean has worked with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and teams of pastors and elders to produce accurate translations of the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament in Hakka and many other Indigenous languages of Taiwan. Paul recently retired as mission staff of the PCC. We give thanks for Paul and his ministry.



(Photo from PCC)



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